

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraph after the title:  
Cross Reference To Related Application

[0001] This application is a **national stage** of PCT/EP2003/013919 filed December 9, 2003 and based upon DE 102 59 974.2 filed December 19, 2002 under the International Convention.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a method for transporting bodywork panels of a vehicle by means of an endless transport device, equipped with a plurality of carrier units that are spaced at intervals in the transport direction, ~~according to the preamble of claim 1.~~ Furthermore, the invention relates to a transport device for implementing the method, ~~corresponding to the preamble of claim 7.~~

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~In order to achieve the object, a method having the features of claim 1 is proposed.~~ The method according to the invention is distinguished by the fact that an associated group of panels is stacked on at least one carrier unit, the group of panels is transported as far as a panel removal station and in each case an individual bodywork panel is removed by a panel

separation device at the panel removal station. On account of the formation of groups of panels, it is possible to use the endless transport device as an intermediate store in addition to its transport function. By this means, transport and intermediate storage of bodywork panels which is flexible and easy to operate is ensured. Thus, the method permits the integration of two devices (transport device, storage device) that are otherwise constructionally and functionally completely separate from each other to form one multifunctional constructional unit. The intermediate storage capacity of the transport device can be influenced, amongst other things, by the predefinable number of carrier units.

Please replace paragraph [00010] with the following amended paragraph:

[00010] ~~In order to achieve the object, a transport device having the features of claim 7 is also proposed.~~ The transport device according to the invention is distinguished by the fact that the respective carrier unit has at least one carrier element projecting substantially at right angles to the transport direction. In this case, the carrier element is used as a support delimiting the carrier unit for a group of panels to be formed.